

PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

7640/13

DISEASE OF THE JOINTS,

COMMONLY CALLED

WHITE - SWELLING;

WITH SOME REMARKS ON

SCROFULOUS ABSCESSSES.

K

By BRYAN CROWTHER,
SURGEON TO BRIDEWELL AND BETHLEM HOSPITALS.

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SCOTLAND

BY BRYAN GROVER

LONDON

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1877

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
THOMAS HARLEY,

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF HEREFORD,

PRESIDENT OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, &c.

THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS

ARE INSCRIBED,

AS A TESTIMONY OF RESPECT AND GRATITUDE,

BY HIS OBLIGED,

HUMBLE SERVANT,

BRYAN CROWTHER.

Boswell-Court, December, 1797.

THOMAS HARLEY

ERRATA.

Page 7, line 4. for be case, read be the case.

17, — antepenult. for the, r. their.

53, — 9, for that, r. whether.

551 — 14, for age, r. old.

19 and 20, for and the, r. and in the, &c.

ult. for night sweat, r. night-sweats.

58, in note, l. 5, for The precipitate, r. This black precipitate, &c.

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PREFACE.

FOR ~~the~~ imperfections and inaccuracies of the following sheets, I feel the necessity of offering an apology. I am ~~not in the~~ habit of composition, nor have I been able to devote ~~to it~~ so much time as I could wish. To me, the remarks they contain, and the practice they recommend, seem important; and under this idea, I have been impelled, by a sense of professional duty, to offer them to the public. I wish also to express the particular veneration I feel for the abilities of the late Mr. Pott. I have nothing on the present occasion to claim to myself, but a
modification

modification of his ideas; they have been the basis of my opinions respecting the probable efficacy of permanent artificial discharges, and have stimulated me to perseverance in their use. The very great success which has followed my application of these principles, seem to be owing to the nearer approximation of the remedy to the seat of the disease; to the greater extent of surface, from which the discharge has been produced; and to the means which have been employed for the maintenance of it. I must also acknowledge the receipt of some communications from gentlemen at a distance from London, with whom this method has particularly succeeded.

PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS, &c.

STRUMOUS or scrofulous affections were very well known to the ancients, and no doubt exists in my mind but that the *morbus coxendicis* of Hippocrates, is the *scrofulous hip* of the present day; and that those articular diseases mentioned by ancient authors, as having their origin in (what they term) cold *pituitous humour* falling on a joint, and which sometimes occasioned luxation; as also the complaints denominated *spina ventosa*, *meliceria*, *hydrarthros*, and *fungus articuli*, are, in their symptoms and effects, very analogous to the different species of the disease which is generally denominated *white-swelling*.

Much as we may regret that the discrimination of the ancients on the subject of articular affections is not so accurate as we could wish, yet it would be unjust to withhold from them our commendation, so far as respects their treatment of such disorders; for the principles on which they founded their expectations of a cure are precisely the same with those of the present day.

They used local and general blood-letting, the actual and potential cautery, with vesicating and stimulating applications to the skin; they farther maintained, that sores produced by these means, should have their discharge promoted, and continued for a considerable length of time*.

* RHASIS opera exquisitiora de affec. junct. p. 507.—
PERMANI chirurg. curiosa, cap. 18, p. 307.—ÆTIUS de
perustione in morbo articulari, cap. 25.—HIERONYMI
FABRICII opera chirurgica de articulorum uestione, cap. 5.

For the advantages resulting from this mode of treatment in the curved spine and diseased joint, we are originally indebted to the ancients; but we are obliged to Mr. POTT, for the more extensive application of the caustics in these disorders.

The treatment which is here submitted to the candid consideration of medical men, owes its origin, principally, to a perusal of the works of ancient practitioners on the subject, and partly to the opinion delivered by Mr. POTT, when he last lectured on the curved spine: he then stated his expectations that a purulent drain from the neighbourhood of the diseased joint would, one day or other, be found highly efficacious; and the opinion of so able a surgeon induced me to persevere, farther than perhaps I should otherwise have done,

in that mode of practice, the ultimate success of which has more than equalled my expectations, and which it is the object of the present Work to establish.

Most of the patients whom I have seen afflicted with this disorder, were of a strumous habit, and descended from parents of a similar constitution: in some cases, it has also appeared, that many of their families have been destroyed by phthisis pulmonalis; I have generally observed, indeed, that children whose parents were unhealthy, or had married at a late period of life, were more particularly subject to scrofulous affections.

Many authors, as well as practitioners, of the present day, have considered acrimony of lymph to be a primary cause of white-swelling.—

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This opinion has induced them to recommend those remedies which are termed alteratives, and also to believe, that, until this habit is corrected, it is vain to expect a cure by any surgical remedy : that this opinion is merely conjectural, the annexed cases will evidently prove ; and in what manner this idea of acrimony can be supported by circumstances relative either to the habit of the patient, or to the disease, I am totally at a loss to determine*.

I shall first consider, separately, the alteration which the bones undergo in this disease, particularly as the cure depends solely on remedies to be ap-

* Vide Dr. KIRKLAND'S Surgery, vol. ii. p. 504. Mr. Bromfield, in the 2d volume of his Surgery, speaking of the scrofulous enlargement of the epiphyses, says, the habit of body in general must be corrected, to give any chance of cure.

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plied to the integuments, and as the bones, themselves, for the most part, neither require nor admit of any particular treatment.

The bones in this complaint are affected in two ways: in the one, they are affected primarily from disease in their interior structure; in the other, they are affected secondarily, by their articulating surfaces becoming diseased, in consequence of the previous affection of the internal surface of the joint.

In the carious stage of this disease, it has been said, that to expedite a cure, exfoliation should be promoted; but experience tells us, that exfoliation rarely occurs, and when the complaint does not seem to require it, may we not infer, that it should not be encouraged?

It is very probable, that if means
 had

had not formerly been used to produce this effect, it would have occurred as seldom then, as we now find to be ^{the} case; those pieces of bone which I have known to come away, have exfoliated not from the articulating part of the bone, which is called *epiphysis*, but from the body of the bone; for, indeed, Mr. BROMFIELD says*, that desquamation, in strictness of terms, happens not to all the bones—as, for instance, the bones of the carpus and tarsus, or the spongy extremities of the cylindrical bones; but, he says, when proper openings are made, the carious part will crumble away insensibly, and be discharged with the matter.

The supposed necessity of exfoliation in scrofulous joints, formerly gave rise to an unnecessary, painful, and

* Bromfield's Surgery, vol. ii.

mischievous practice, as the making use of the knife, caustics, or cauteries*. The two last of which remedies were employed to dry up the rottenness of the bones, and to destroy the hyperfarcosis, or the exuberant fungusses with which the surgeons of those days were frequently troubled †. At the same time, tents of
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* Curatio ad os præcipue dirigi debet & nisi perſanato offe curatio nulla eſt.—Annotat. Mercklini in Pandolphini, cap. i. Le Clerk on diſeaſes of the bone, cap. iii.

† Obſerv. Medico Chirurg. Petri de Marchettis de ſpina ventofa, p. 119.

Spinæ ventofitas, quam nuperi dixerunt ſpinam ventofam. Primus de eo morbo, & bene egit (Rhafes.) Mali cauſam in ipſo offe eſſe, & vicinam carnem omnemque articulationem intumeſcere, malum in ambulatione augeri. Si ferro aperueris, non facile ſaneſcere & ſi os corruptum fuerit non curari, niſi os extraxeris.—Halleri Bibliotheca Chirurgica, vol. i. Haller's edition of Rhafes, 1542.

Ventofitas ſpinæ eſt ad modum doloris: ſed materia in dolore articulorum erit in carne & muſculis: ſed in vitio ſpinæ hæc materia erit in offe, & parte ejus corrumpitur caro vicina ei: & juxta modum acuitatis ipſius materiæ erit malitia & velocitas ulcerationis ipſius. De cognitione
5 quotiens

of different kinds were in use to make way to, and keep exposed the carious bone, together with an occasional touch of the actual cautery, to facilitate its removal.

Since it has been the practice, as far as I have known, or seen, not to dilate the sores to the extent formerly

quodliens videris articulum ingrossari cum durabilitate, non deficiet vitium sicut deficit vitium articulorum: sed quotiens perdurat in dispositione ipsa fiet acutius ambulando, quare minorio fiat in primo de proximiori loco illinitio, fiat cum eo quod confortat locum & solidat articulum: purgetur corpus de huiusmodi calidis, generetur sanguis humidus modico acuitatis: supponantur locis semper emplastra ad corroborandum, ad prohibendum manationem superfluitatis ad ea; & toto studio in frigidetur locus; quoniam hoc regime prohibito fiet quod non corrumpatur os, & remanebit in ipsa dispositione per tempus longum absque ulceratione: quod si aperis illud cum ferro velociter, non de levi fiet glutinatio ipsius, quoniam os aptum est ad corruptionem: & iam corrupta est pars ipsius & hic non glutinabitur nisi extrahatur os, & totum id quod fuerat corruptum ex corruptione ipsius ossis, vel alterius difficilis erit sanatio ipsius etiam quando aperitur ad extrahendum os, noli dimittere quod non suscitatur de corruptione ossis: alterius cum rebus confortativis, in frigidativis, & prohibitivis.—Rhafis. *cap. v. lib. xv. in Museo Britannico.*

done, no such diseased fungusses have arisen, as the surgeons at that time experienced. It has been thought, and really might be apprehended, that Mr. Serjeant Wiseman, by the treatment we have just represented, may have added to that caries it was his intention to remove; however, from the account he gives of this practice, we cannot form any considerable hopes of success, particularly when he tells us, that in a case of white-swelling of the knee, in which, after he had applied a caustic to make an opening to discharge the matter, the actual cautery was made use of to expedite exfoliation, yet, as he says, the caries increased, and the patient languishing, died at last tabid.—

The spina ventosa of the joint, or that species of white-swelling which consists in an enlargement of the bone,

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is a malady to which young people are most liable*. Writers have supposed, that the peculiar texture of the epiphyses, or the ends of a bone, caused them to be more liable to it, than their middle, or harder parts †: however, we know that the extremities of the cylindrical bones allow of a greater degree of expansion than we commonly find to take place in the middle of a bone, and that, at first, without marks of external caries. We must admit as a fact, though we are at a loss to account for it, that the harder parts of a bone are more susceptible of the venereal virus, than the softer parts; and that the extremities, or heads of a bone, are more frequently liable to scrofula, though instances have, and do occur, where

* Joannis de Gorter chirurgia repurgata, pages 49 and 50.

† Le Clerk on diseases on bone, cap. iii.

every part of a bone is subject to venereal, as well as strumous affection.

Cases of white-swelling, attended with enlargement of bone, have recovered; and, I believe such instances would have been more frequent, had a remedy been known capable of arresting the progress of the disease in the bone; for, unless this can be accomplished, the malady of the bone will go on, until it pervades the joint, and produce those effects on the ligaments, and articulating surfaces of the ends of the bones, as occur in the white-swelling, where the disease first begins in the cavity of the joint.— Mr. POTT has ascertained the efficacy of artificial drains, in checking the progress of caries, in diseased vertebræ, and in restoring the spine, as well as the patient to a state of health: and I feel the greatest satisfaction in the suc-

cases which has occurred from the use of a similar mode of practice in cases of white-swelling, attended with disease of the bones.

I have, on the authority of WISEMAN, regarded the spina ventosa of a joint, as a species of white-swelling, and I am convinced of the propriety of that arrangement; for surgeons, however accurately in their conversations or writings they have been able to discriminate between the different kinds of this disorder, yet, in practice they have found themselves frequently mistaken, as to the parts of the joint which were diseased.—The difficulty of such a distinction is of the least importance, for, so far as my experience and observations of the disease have extended, the treatment is essentially the same in all cases of white-swelling.

RHAPS,

RHAZES, AVICENNA, PANDOLPHIN, and most other authors, have informed us, that the *spina ventosa* is a disease of the bone; and MERCLIN, a judicious commentator on PANDOLPHIN'S Treatise on this subject, says, that in this disease, the bones are first and principally affected in their interior part, and the disease of the bone always precedes that of the flesh: hence, if the disease of the bone, and that of the flesh, appear at the same time, the former existed before the latter*.

Unless a patient applies to a surgeon in an early stage of this disorder, it is in some cases very difficult

* *Malum nostrum in ossis potius corruptione quam in exulceratione carnis consistere, hæc fere evincunt rationes, quia ossa & quidem interius primo ac primario corrumpuntur; ossisque corruptio semper præcedit corruptionem carnis; atque hinc si ossis & carnis vitium simul apparet, illud semper hoc prius extitit.*—Annotat Mercklini Pandolphini, cap. i.

to speak with certainty, as to the exact state of the joint ; for, under certain circumstances, white-swellings very much resemble each other in point of external appearance. I have shown to my medical friends some diseased joints, of which, upon examination, it was impossible to decide with accuracy, as to the state of the parts : some of the cases, they, as well as myself, considered only an enlargement of the bone ; but after the application of leeches, and an artificial drain derived from the integuments, covering the joint, there did not appear the smallest enlargement of the heads of the bone ; and in cases where it was imagined the bones were not enlarged, but the complaint was merely an affection of the soft parts ; it turned out, on their recovery, that the bones also had suffered enlargement.

ment. With the fallacious feel white-swellings often afford to examination, our minds cannot be too strongly impressed; and I suspect, when Mr. Serjeant WISEMAN speaks of bones in the course of one night becoming amazingly enlarged in this disease, that he was deceived in the way I have just mentioned.

In the rickets, we do not find one joint only affected, for the corresponding limb shows marks of the same disease; the pain attending a scrofulous enlargement of bone, besides the symptoms and progress of the complaint, make it improbable, as some suppose, that the rickets and spina ventosa can be taken for one another*.

If we are called early to a case of

* Vide Mr. Cheston's Pathological Observations and Enquiries.

spina ventosa, the joint will bear handling without the patient manifesting any pain, the integuments will be capable of being pinched up, and will be found unaffected. The joint in this case can be extended, or is capable of being bent, with the most perfect ease and facility. As the disease advances, the soft parts become affected, and fluids are effused within the articulation, and different parts about the joint, but the distention increasing, the joint becomes painful to the touch, or, when exerted, inflammation at length supervening, ulceration follows: and should the parts be exposed by dissection, the ends of the bones will be found enlarged, and their articulating surfaces more or less deprived of the cartilaginous covering.

Patients afflicted with white-swell-
 D ing,

ling, are often encouraged by practitioners to hope that the complaint may terminate in ankylosis; but this, unfortunately, is a very infrequent occurrence, and cannot reasonably be expected; whilst the disease is suffered to proceed. Ankylosis is a process of health, and, as such, can it be expected to occur, until the progress of the complaint in the bone be arrested?

I shall not attempt to determine whether the reason I have already assigned, will account for the infrequency of ankylosis in this disorder; yet, as a proof how seldom it occurs, I have seen but two cases of the knee, and one of the elbow, ankylosed by ossific union. Other instances of knees ankylosed by a conjunction of soft parts, have also occurred to my notice; which joints, though incapable

ble of flexion, yet admitted a degree of motion, just enough to prove, that ossific matter had not produced the union; fortunately for these patients, the leg and thigh had been kept, during the cure, in an extended state.

Perfect quietude of the limb is requisite for the recovery of a diseased joint; but more particularly if the part should be in a disposition to ankylose. Too great attention cannot then be paid, if the disease is of the knee, that the leg be kept extended; and, if in the elbow joint, that the arm be kept bent; for inattention to a proper position of a limb affected with this disease, has often rendered it useless, though the complaint was cured. At the time I inserted some observations in the Fourth Volume of "Medical Facts," I was not then aware of the necessity of absolute rest, which

I have since found to be indispensable in these cases.

Much objection to keeping the joint in a state of rest has often been urged by the patients, or their friends, from an apprehension that the joint would become rigid, but I have never hitherto found rest produce such an effect. In every case, under my care, of white-swelling of the knee, the limb has been kept extended, in some cases for many months, and, in one, during a space of two years; yet the joints have never been rendered rigid, or their motion impaired.

It appears to me, that joints becoming rigid, is rather a consequence of disease, than arising from a position of the limb; and I am confirmed in this opinion, by having seen several joints rigid by this disease, completely set at liberty, merely by the
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the effects of a purulent drain derived from the integuments surrounding the complaint.

Patients are very frequently, in this disorder, troubled with spasms of the affected limb; and in the case of the white-swelling, it has been conceived, that these spasms have induced the patient to bend the joint, and to keep it in that situation, in order to procure ease. It is ascertained, that the spasms attending a broken leg or thigh are much diminished in their extent by a relaxed position of the limb; but the consequence of allowing patients a similar indulgence in this disease, will occasion such a contracted state of the joint, as ultimately to render it almost useless.— Indeed, an attention to this point is highly necessary, as the spasms may be lessened by opium, and as they will
 * entirely

entirely subside as the disease advances to a cure*.

If the complaint has proceeded so far as to erode the articulating surfaces of the bones, it has been generally thought, if the disease was cured, ankylosis would inevitably ensue; but cases of diseased knees, where the bones, on being moved, were evidently found to grate, have been cured without being ankylosed, and the grating sensation was no longer discoverable. These instances would lead one to conclude, that if surgical attention can but check the farther progress of the disease, the joint will recover its action, and be rigid or ankylosed, in proportion to the extent of the disordered state of the parts that previously existed.

The emaciation of the limb which

* Vide Bell's Surgery.

frequently

frequently attends this disease, has been considered as an unfavourable circumstance ; but it is to be remarked, that if the complaint has not been of any long continuance, the limb will often regain its natural size, but not otherwise ; for though it may recover a degree of plumpness, it will never arrive to the bulk of the healthy limb. Nevertheless, instances of recovery have occurred with a very useful limb, after tedious and long suppuration, though it has continued in a reduced state so long as the patient lived.

Prefuming it unnecessary, it is therefore deemed improper to occupy much of the reader's attention, by a minute detail of the applications usually employed for the relief of this disease, especially as they have proved unsuccessful, or from the degree of
their

their efficacy, can, at the most, be considered merely as palliatives.

The effect of cold in suspending the progress of ulceration in the spina ventosa, was noticed by RHASIS.

Cold applications of the aqua lithargyri acetati composita, aqua ammoniæ acetatæ, or sal ammoniac, during its solution in vinegar and water, though possessing no curative power, have had their use, by checking inflammation, and thereby retarding the progress of the complaint towards suppuration, and, consequently, preserving the integuments for a longer time in a healthy state. These applications, besides, have sometimes effected a slight reduction of the swelling of the joint, by promoting absorption of some of the fluid collected under the integuments; yet this is but a superficial benefit, for this fluid
will

will be reproduced, whilst the disease within the articulation is unimpeded in its progress.

The advantages of local bleeding, as a means of relief in this complaint, merit our attention, though it has not appeared of any service, except in cases attended with great pain; and in these it is proper that the part should be bled largely, and repeatedly, until the patient's sufferings are somewhat mitigated.

It has not appeared to me, that this treatment alone has entirely removed the pain, much less cured the disease; though, in one case, indeed, where no other means were adopted, the patient became easier for a short time, but in a few weeks, the pain returned with its former severity, and the progress of the complaint seemed to have received only a temporary check.

I have, however, witnessed the efficacy of local bleeding in cases of violent pain within a joint unattended with swelling ; and the patients thus afflicted were every one of a scrofulous habit. In addition to this treatment, the perspiration of the part was kept up by fomentation and poultices, the patients were confined to bed, the state of their bowels attended to, and antimonial preparations, assisted by a quantity of opium, proportioned to the degree of pain and age of the patients, were administered in the evening.

I have known this method of treatment completely successful in removing an incipient complaint, which, if suffered to have proceeded, would most probably have terminated in white-swelling.

Blood may be taken from the part,
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by cupping or leeches; it is obvious, that leeches must be used in those cases, where, from the swelling of the joint, the integuments are in a state of tension, and that they are also to be preferred where the skin is inflamed. These are the only circumstances under which one mode of drawing blood is preferable to another; for the patients have appeared benefited by the proportionate quantity of blood that has been drawn from the part, and not from the mode by which it was taken.

Mercury was resorted to by Heister, in complaints of this nature, from a notion that they arose from a venereal taint. Notwithstanding the success he attributes to this medicine, it would appear from the observations I have been able to make respecting it, or to collect from the experience of others,

that there is not the smallest foundation for this opinion; for, surely, if there were any affinity in the nature of the two disorders, the remedy that absolutely cures the one, should, in some degree, have a tendency to relieve the other.

Patients labouring under white-swelling have applied to me on account of venereal complaints, which were entirely removed by mercury; but no effect was produced on the diseased joint, even where the fairest possible opportunity was given by rubbing it into the affected limb, which, consequently, exposed the joint completely to its action.

Mercurial friction has, indeed, in some degree reduced the swelling of a joint, by promoting absorption of fluid, collected exterior to the ligaments, but as it had not any power over the
disease,

disease, which existed within the articulation, the tumefaction returned. This mode of treatment will sometimes succeed in curing that sort of complaint, which in appearance resembles the true white-swelling; but as it is confined to parts externally situated to the ligaments, it must be seen how widely it differs from that kind of affection which has its origin in a distempered state of the ligaments, or of the articular part of the bone. I have said that mercury sometimes succeeds, though it will much oftener fail.

Sea-bathing or the application of sea water, as local remedies in these cases, have not appeared to me to be attended with success. But the sea-air is manifestly useful in improving the patients' health, and by that means supporting him under the excessive drain of a long continued ulcerated
white-

white-swelling, and, in this respect, I consider it as a very important means of relief.

Of the customary remedies applied in cases of white-swellings, blisters have the preference, and their efficacy has by some been supposed to arise from the stimulus, more than from the discharge they produce. Practitioners of this opinion, have blistered the whole joint, and suffered the part to heal before another blister was applied; and in this way, they have kept up a constant succession of stimulus.

Others, who were of opinion that it was the discharge, and not the stimulus, which was productive of advantage; have applied perpetual blisters, and though I never saw any permanent good from the first mode of applying them; yet in a case of diseased hip, a large perpetual blister, placed

placed behind the trochanter, was attended with remarkable success.

Dr. Akenfide published a paper in the Medical Transactions, on the efficacy of blisters in cases of white swellings, in which alterative medicines, such as calomel and bark, were given. He states, that he has thus been able to restore the use of one or other of the principal joints, where the case seemed very near to an ankylosis: But the Doctor remarks, that it is hardly necessary to premise, that nothing can be expected from this treatment, where there is any sensible collection of fluid within the joint. He seems, in the first instance, to have applied a blister round the whole joint, and afterwards to have kept up a discharge from a circumscribed spot over the painful part, and to have laid some stress upon the use of oily frictions, where the
motion

motion of the limb was impaired. His cases, however, were not all scrofulous; I think two of them only were so, and in these the discharge was kept up for a considerable time.

The irritation and the strangury, occasioned by the use of blisters, introduced the application of caustics; which treatment will be more particularly considered, when we speak of the efficacy of artificial drains.

A variety exists in point of symptoms in those white-swellings which owe their origin to a morbid state of the cavity of the joint. In the one, the complaint is slow in its progress to inflammation and suppuration, and produces at first but slight uneasiness; while the other is attended with very severe pain, previous to the appearance of any swelling.

The first of these constitutes as does
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the spina ventosa, the true scrofulous joint, and the sufferings of the patient are so slight, that the swelling of the joint is often the first circumstance which excites attention. The skin is peculiarly pallid, and when the integuments are pinched up, they will be found thickened, though not in the least œdematous. It is remarkable, that in this indolent sort of white-swelling, the bones sometimes will become carious, and the ligaments diseased; and all this is accomplished with less uneasiness considerably to the patients, than what occurs in the white-swelling which commences with violent pain; and besides, the health is not so materially hurt as might be supposed: but as the complaint makes further progress, the joint becomes more considerably distended, a fluctuation of fluid is more evidently to be perceived, and

the distention of the joint increasing, inflammation and suppuration occur. It is at this time when the patient's health is in the greatest hazard, and suffers more rapidly than at any other period of the complaint. The pain which is first observed is always within the joint, and the integuments and tendinous parts suffer in consequence of the articulation being affected.

The elasticity which writers mention, as perceptible to the touch, on examination, is very similar to the sensation that deep-seated abscesses give, or what might be expected from feeling a fluid through parts which are in a diseased and thickened state. These parts are sometimes much distended by the fluid which is effused, and the whole joint feels so hard and tense, that the case might easily be mistaken for a mere enlargement of bone:

bone: Inasmuch as the least fluctuation is not to be felt. I have repeatedly seen an artificial purulent discharge, continued for a very short time, so effectually relieve the parts from their distended state, as entirely to remove the delusion.

If the complaint be suffered to take its usual progress, the ligaments will be destroyed, the articulating surfaces of the bones eroded, and the patient will die hectic, from the irritation and great discharge arising from the repeated suppurations which always attend the latter stage of white-swelling.

Suppuration occurring in white-swelling, if confined to parts exterior to the cavity of the joint, now and then affords relief, arrests the progress of the disease, and in some instances effects a cure.

I wish I could say that this mode of termination was the general consequence of suppuration, but the reverse is almost always the case: For when the disease is approaching to this state, the patient's health begins to suffer, and the degree of danger is rendered more imminent by different abscesses forming, the irritation and discharge of which, independent of the mischief that is occasioned to the integuments, and other parts of the joint, by extensive ulceration, has sometimes rendered it necessary that the patient should submit to amputation.

I have taken every opportunity to inform myself as to the propriety of opening the different abscesses which occur in this disease, and am satisfied that such a practice is so far from being productive of advantage, that it has
greatly

greatly increased the inflammation, and extended the sloughing of the soft parts; in some instances, it has produced ulcers of the phagedenic kind, whilst in others, diseased fungusses have sprung up.

Dilatation of the openings spontaneously formed, has been recommended, with a view to expose caries, and facilitate the exfoliation of the diseased bone: but should the introduction of a probe into any of these fores discover the bone to be affected, it has seemed good practice, under such circumstances, to forbear the use of the caustic or knife, and not as Mr. Bromfield has directed, to enlarge them; as he himself says, the carious part will crumble away insensibly, and be discharged with the matter.

When ulcers have been produced of the ill-conditioned kind just mentioned,

tioned, there has existed for a length of time a morbid state of the soft parts; and that to a greater extent than often would be expected from the appearance of the skin.

Even where ulceration has happened in an early stage of white-swellings, though the sores are certainly not of that malignant nature just described, yet from their number (for as soon as one heals, another breaks out) they will constitute a more extensive disease of the integuments, than may have been imagined; and the circumstance of the cellular membrane being destroyed, will render the healing of them very difficult: they sometimes indeed, do heal, but then they generally break out again, or fresh ulcerations are formed in parts contiguous to the former.

Practice, and not hypothesis, inclines
me

me to condemn the dilatation of the sores which are produced in this complaint; for till I was satisfied of the inconvenience which occurs from the use of the knife, I was in the habit of laying them open. I can mention more than one or two cases, where fungus arose after extensive openings had been made; and the same effect I have known to occur in abscesses, which have burst with a considerable sloughing of the skin.

Extensive inflammation has also followed the use of the knife under the above-mentioned circumstances, and from some cases I shall select the following instance of the ill effects of such operation. A patient had a white-swellings of the knee, in which a great number of sores formed, matter was confined in them, and they were found by the probe to communicate with

with each other ; I was in hopes that by dilating the most dependent to an extent of not more than half an inch, I should be able to afford a complete discharge to the matter ; this was accordingly done, and on seeing the patient the day following, I found him very feverish ; he complained of violent pain over the whole knee, and within the joint, which was prodigiously enlarged by the suppuration which had supervened. The irritation and the great discharge, only for a few days, had so reduced him, that amputation was proposed, as the only means of saving his life, to which he would not submit, and within three weeks died, hectic.

It would seem that the opening alone occasioned these evils, by inducing irritation on parts in a state of disease,

disease, and thereby augmenting rather than alleviating the disorder.

Patients do not sometimes apply for surgical relief till suppuration has advanced ; and then it is generally encouraged by the application of warm fomentations and poultices, from a notion (as I suppose) that it is improbable that discussion can be obtained under such circumstances. But I have repeatedly succeeded in effecting the absorption of a fluid, which I had previously ascertained in my own mind to be pus, from every attending circumstance, such as the appearance of the skin, the degree of pain endured, and particularly when the part was examined, together with the general state of the patient's health.

Though the complaint has sometimes been cured by the occurrence of abscess in parts exterior to the
G
joint,

joint, yet the situation of the patients has been rendered very hazardous, for it is a great instance of good fortune, if they are not destroyed by the irritation and drain of these sores; and I have seen the removal of the limb become a necessary consequence of such external abscesses.

The circumstance that white-swellings do occasionally recover in the suppurative stage of the disorder, has often given credit to remedies of no avail. For, if the patient should possess strength sufficient to support him under the discharge, the last application, as well as the last practitioner who attended, will appear to have the merit of curing the disease, the patient not being apprised that this is sometimes effected by the spontaneous formation of abscess.

No surgeon possessing humanity, or judgment in his profession, would,
in

in a case of curvature of spine, arising from a diseased state of the vertebræ, recommend his patient to wait for the appearance of lumbar abscess, because, once in a way, a cure has been obtained; but would immediately advise the caustics, from a conviction that it is almost a certainty, that, even if such abscess should take place, his patient would be drained to death, in consequence of the great and long-continued discharge.

And though it has been observed, that where suppuration has taken place, and an external abscess been formed, in the early stage of white-swelling, a final cure has occasionally followed; it should nevertheless be remembered, that this abscess had no connection with the cavity of the joint, for if it had, the chance of the patient's recovery would have been

G 2 extremely

extremely precarious; and where it happens that the complaint has proceeded so far as thoroughly to disorder every part connected with the joint, in that case, the formation of abscess becomes an unfortunate occurrence, as tending to increase the complaint, and exhaust the patient.

It is now more than four years since I recommended the caustic to be applied on the integuments covering the diseased joint, from an opinion, that issues would prove more effectual, the nearer they were made to the seat of the disease.

I then stated, that this opinion had something more than probable conjecture to recommend itself, and, indeed, subsequent experience has fully confirmed me in the belief, that the failure of the caustic in diseased joints, was

was not owing, according to Dr. Austin*, to the distance of the part affected from the trunk, but from the discharge not being procured so near the complaint as might be effected: however, the reader will of course form his own opinion from the comparative success attending the more distant, or closer application of the remedy.

The mode I first pursued in maintaining an artificial drain in these cases, was, by making a large eschar, of a circular form, on each side of the joint, and keeping the sores open by a layer of sponge dipped in the *emplastrum ceræ compositum*, of the same shape as the sores, but of a size rather less, so as to allow sufficient room for the granulations at the edges to rise above the surface of the plastered sponge,

* Pott's Works, vol. iii. p. 498, Earle's edit.

which

which was further secured in its place by cross slips of adhesive plaster, and the assistance of a roller.

Though this method has succeeded in the cure of confirmed white-swelling, some of which were attended with caries, yet the application of the caustic is frequently hazardous, from the thinness of the integuments in some cases; for instances have occurred where the caustic has penetrated so far as to produce a sloughing of the tendinous expansion of the muscles; but the surgeon may avoid injuring the ligaments of the joint, by making the eschars at a distance sufficiently remote, as he can afterwards shift the fore higher or lower, more on one side or the other, by pressing the sponge against its edge in the direction of that part from whence he may wish to procure a discharge. Notwithstanding

the success which attended the application of the caustic, yet these inconveniences as well as the very minute attention it requires, made me apprehensive that it would never be generally adopted. I was of course led to the trial of different escharotic applications, in the form of ointment; amongst others, I was induced from observing the effects of powdered savine in the removal of verrucæ, to try it also. Some of the powder was first mixed with white cerate, and applied as a dressing to a part that had been blistered; but the ointment ran off, leaving the powder dry upon the sore, and no effect was produced. I next inspissated a decoction of savine, and mixed the extract with the ointment, which succeeded better, for it produced a great and permanent discharge: and at last, after various trials, I was led to prefer

fer a preparation analagous to the *unguentum sambuci*, P. L. and give the following formula, as answering every purpose which my wishes could have suggested :

CERATUM SABINÆ.

R *Sabinæ, recentis contusæ.*

Ceræ flavæ, singularum, libram unam.

Adipis suillæ, libras quatuor.

Adipe et cerâ liquæfactis incoque sabinam et cola.*

I have made many experiments respecting this cerate, and at one time imagined, that its preparation in a copper vessel might have influenced its effect. Its deep green colour does appear to depend upon this

* I am obliged to Mr. Coxwell, Chemist, of Temple-Bar, for the pains he has taken in the preparation of this cerate, and I have uniformly found that which is prepared by him, to be preferable to any I have met with elsewhere.

circumstance;

circumstance ; for where it is prepared in tin vessels, it is of a much paler green tinge, nearly approaching to a yellow, but its effect is the same. The presence of a small quantity of copper, in an external application, cannot be of any consequence, and in this case, notwithstanding the modification of its colour, the quantity is so small as not to be discoverable by any chemical test.

The ceratum sabinae has been tried very largely in the medical practice of a large hospital, for the production of permanent discharges, and it is preferable in this view to the unguentum cantharidis, because it produces no strangury, and because the quantity of discharge is much greater. There are some particular constitutions where its use is attended with great irritation, and when such occur it should be lowered

ered by the addition of unguentum ceræ.

It is to be understood that a blister is to be previously applied over the anterior and lateral parts of the joint, and when the cuticle is removed, the sore is to be dressed with the ceratum fabinæ, taking care at every dressing, to keep the part clean.

Simplicity attending any mode of treatment, must certainly be considered as a recommendation in its favour ; and I have not known this method of maintaining a drain in the least inferior to that by the caustic, and from its success, it has seemed to me to merit a preference, particularly in those cases where the disease in the joint is more extensive, of course the pain and swelling more diffusive, for the caustic cannot be well applied to a surface so large as from experience
seems

seems requisite for the accomplishment of a cure.

The success of this kind of treatment is always proportionate to the quantity of discharge which is procured, and not the depth of surface from whence it is derived. The ingenuity of surgeons has been employed, to explain in what manner the caustics are beneficial in complaints of this nature, one imagining it is the irritation, another the discharge, and some in order, as they think to be nearer the truth, have supposed the efficacy to exist in both.

A difference of opinion, when it does not influence us in the treatment of a disease, cannot be productive of harm, and therefore I should have contented myself, in merely bringing forward cases to prove the efficacy of the practice I wish to recommend;

but when the contrary appears, and the feelings as well as the recovery of the patient, are involved in a theoretical controversy, the difference of opinion then becomes serious, and should be determined as soon as possible; but this can be effected only by the criterion of practical experience.

It may be said in favour of the irritation which immediately attends the caustic, that it is sometimes effectual (for it is not uniformly so) in reducing the swelling and consequently mitigating the pain; but these are only symptoms of the disease, and not the disease itself; and we have not (as I know of) a single instance of a confirmed white-swelling being cured by the mere effect of irritation, and those cases in which it seemed to me to produce any effect, the joint was in a state of a great tension, and
further

further than this the complaint did not receive any amendment until an absolute drain had been established for some time.

Mr. Pott attributed the success of the caustic to the discharge, and I am confirmed in that opinion from subsequent experience ; and it appears to me very doubtful *whether* that the greatest advocate for irritation, has ever known it capable of arresting the progress of caries, healing sores, dispersing abscesses and collections of fluid, which are attendant on white-swelling : but that such effects do result from the kind of treatment we have been recommending, is beyond all doubt ; but the reader, I trust, will be able to satisfy himself with respect to this point, by a perusal of cases which are brought forward, not with a view of supporting this or that particular opinion, but merely

merely to record a plain matter of fact: viz. that white-swellings of the joints have recovered after making a fore surface, and procuring from thence a considerable permanent discharge.

It has frequently happened to remedies which have been recommended in particular complaints, that their application has been too general, and that their powers have been estimated from their effect in cases by no means analogous to those for which it was originally intended; in this way many an useful medicine has lost its credit, and sunk into oblivion.

I should be sorry to be understood as either making in my own practice, or recommending to others, an indiscriminate use of any particular remedy; but I trust that the relation the several cases bear to the disease of which it was my more immediate object to treat,

treat, will preclude the possibility of such an imputation.

From having observed the effect of artificial drains in discussing several collections of fluid and even abscesses, generally attending white-swelling, one naturally would be led to the trial of the same treatment in similar complaints, when seated in other parts of the body.

The first opportunity that offered, was a case of a very large lumbar abscess, this patient was of a strumous habit, about forty years ^{old} ago, and when a boy had a diseased hip, which recovered in the suppurative stage of that disorder; he applied to me on account of a large lumbar abscess; and ⁱⁿ the most prominent part the skin was thin and inflamed. He was very weak and feverish, and was troubled ^{2/} with night sweat, flushings, loss of appetite,

petite, and cough. In this state, I was apprehensive, if the abscess burst, or was opened, he would sink under the discharge, and therefore a blister was made to cover the whole swelling, and when removed, the cuticle was taken off, and the part every day regularly dressed with the *ceratum sabinae*; notwithstanding the great discharge which was produced, so far from his becoming weaker, strength was gradually regained; the pain within the swelling was considerably mitigated, and after a short time there followed a very perceptible reduction of the tumour; and by submitting to this treatment for nearly the space of a year, he completely recovered; and since has enjoyed a perfect state of health. That

* This method has succeeded in also removing two large deep-seated abscesses in the ham, in patients who were scrofulous; and two other cases of imposthumes in the leg and foot besides.

part

part of the swelling where the skin was thin and inflamed, at last ulcerated, but no matter escaped, nor did the introduction of a probe into the fore lead to any cavity.

I have also dispersed in this way, several abscesses of the glands of the neck, and three very large scrofulous buboes, where the swellings were composed of distinct glands, which were connected to each other by intervening substances.

These last cases prove very tedious, and the patient suffers much from the repeated suppurations, which, in some instances succeed each other, for a space of more than six months, and even then the part has sometimes been left in a state of hardness; and when that happens, scrofulous ulcers are very liable to break out again, or or fresh collections of matter to form.

Observing that when this circumstance occurred, the sores uniformly healed with induration, I was induced to keep them open, either by an occasional touch of the lunar caustic, or a solution of it in water, till all hardness was removed, and I think I have also seen some effect from a mercurial dressing* in increasing the discharge, and not only amending the state of the sore, but causing the edges of the ulcers to soften down.

Much may be expected from artificial drains in those depositions of matter

* The precipitate by pure ammonia, from a solution of mercury, in diluted nitrous acid, made in a low temperature, and applied moist, the superabundant ammonia being previously washed away by distilled water.

The precipitate, after drying, has not appeared to me to answer so well as whilst it retained its moisture, so as to possess about the consistence of cream. It was first proposed to me by Mr. Haslam, of Bethlem Hospital, as an application to venereal sores, or any kind of ulcer, in which the external use of mercury might be thought adviseable, and from my own experience I can recommend it in such cases

which

which succeed fever, small-pox, &c. and are called critical abscesses; and the following case will show that they are attended with much danger, which probably might thus be obviated.

A lad about ten years of age, of a scrofulous habit, was suddenly seized with a pain in his knee, and up the whole limb; he afterwards became very feverish, and when I saw him the whole thigh was loaded with matter, which I let out by a small opening, but this afforded no relief to the diseased joint, and in a few weeks he died, hectic, from the very great discharge.

It is impossible to ascertain with precision what degree of benefit might have accrued in this case from an artificial drain; but under such circumstances, my expectations of advantage are not inconsiderable from the great good derived from that treatment in
 I 2 the

the analogous instances I am about to mention.

I was desired to visit a man, who, after a fever, which appeared from the account given of him to have been typhus, was afflicted with a large abscess, occupying one side of his face, and extending below the jaw; it was painful, particularly to the touch, and the skin was in one part reddened. After a discharge had been kept up for three weeks, the whole tumour dispersed, and he got perfectly well.

The opening of scrofulous abscesses in general, when attended with circumscribed hardness, has been found to be productive of harm; for these require, after artificial opening, a longer time to recover than when they are permitted to burst of themselves; but an aperture is indispensably necessary in those collections of matter which
cannot

cannot be discussed, and are attended with no surrounding hardness ; for here, if the matter be not let out, it will often diffuse itself into the cellular membrane, and cause a number of extensive sinuses.

After the bursting or laying open these imposthumes, the sore has sometimes become phagedenic, though indeed this term will convey but an imperfect idea of that state of sore I wish to describe: the true phagedenic ulcer, according to my opinion and observation, wears rather a cancerous appearance, it enlarges rapidly, has inverted edges, is irregular in its figure, and is sometimes attended with fungus ; but the patient does not feel those lancinating pains, nor does he complain of uneasiness when the part is dressed, nor is the sore subject to bleeding, as is the case in cancerous ulcers ; in-

*

deed

deed but for such distinctions, and more particularly from these complaints having recovered, they certainly might be mistaken for cancerous.

I have seen six of these cases in the groin, two of them were patients afflicted with the venereal disease, the others were scrofulous: mercury given in the first instance, to those who were venereally affected, tended to enlarge the sore, though it afterwards became necessary to complete the cure.

In these complaints, lint dipped in tar, had an excellent effect in checking the farther progress of the sore, and disposing it to suppurate kindly; but the application of sorrel succeeded in two instances where the tar and carrot poultices, with spirituous fomentations, had failed.

I shall relate the cases of these sores,
as

as accurately as my recollection serves, because their appearances were peculiar and striking.

A boy, about fifteen, had a large scrofulous abscess in the fore part of his thigh, which burst, and as the natural opening was insufficient for letting out the matter, I enlarged it with the probe-pointed bistory; the next morning, the whole sore had become one continued flough, and was without any surrounding hardness; the mischief went on rapidly spreading, notwithstanding a very liberal use of the bark internally, and was not arrested till bruised sorrel-leaves were applied*.

* My idea of making this application was suggested by the success stated by Dr. Beddoes to have followed the use of a similar plant in some cases of scrofulous ulcerations. His testimony is in favour of the wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) which I could not readily procure, and therefore substituted for it the common wood-sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*); but it is probable, from the larger relative proportion of oxalic acid contained in the former plant, that it may be superior in its powers to the latter.

A little

A little girl, about six years of age, was brought to me on account of a scrofulous abscess seated on the ulna, which burst, and produced a sore exactly of the description of the preceding one. The child suffered much from the pain, and therefore a solution of one grain of opium was given daily, and as much bark as the stomach could bear. Notwithstanding tar and other applications were used, the sore continued to spread, and I determined upon trying the sorrel, intending, if this should fail in checking the disposition to slough, to make an escharotic application; this however was unnecessary, for the sorrel soon gave a healthy appearance to the sore which continued during its use; and when it was afterwards dressed with lint and calamine cerate, it degenerated into its former sloughy state,

state, which was again removed by the application of the sorrel, and was at last totally healed by it.

Although a purulent drain, artificially excited, ought not perhaps to be esteemed a constitutional remedy, merely from an improvement taking place in the patient's health, in consequence of an amendment occurring in a local disease; yet certainly it establishes a claim of that nature, when we find other modifications of the same disease, existing at the same time, and in the same patient, removed by a treatment adopted only with a view to the relief of a local complaint. However, as fact is at all times preferable to theory, I shall relate some instances inclining me to the opinion that an artificial drain, in cases of scrofula, is in itself a constitutional remedy.

A young lady, about ten years old, had a great number of scrofulous ulcers over her body, besides the joints of most of her fingers much enlarged; her mother stated, that the child had an affection of her chest, with cough, difficulty of breathing, night-sweats and flushings, and that as soon as one sore healed, another broke out. I informed her that as the child had tried what medicine could do, I wished that she might submit to an issue only; accordingly I made her one in the arm, and kept some of the sores discharging by the *ceratum sabinae*. It is about two years since her first application to me for relief, and her mother informs me, that she has completely recovered of her complaints, excepting that some of her fingers remain rather in a contracted state.

The glands in the neck of a little boy,

boy, of about three years old, were suppurated, and his finger-joints considerably enlarged. A long course of medicine had afforded him no relief, and therefore I recommended an issue to be made in the arm. After this discharge had been kept up for three months, the enlargement of the fingers entirely disappeared, and the complaint in the neck was much amended.

From some of the annexed cases, it will appear, that the general habit of the patient has been improved by the establishment of a drain, for the alleviation of a diseased joint; and that it may therefore be advantageously employed, as a constitutional remedy. I have recorded some instances, in which a relapse did occur after the sores were suffered to heal, and the patient was obliged to submit to a repetition

petition of the same treatment ; but when an issue has been kept open in any part of the body, for a considerable length of time after the cure of the local disease, no such accident has occurred.

C A S E I.

I was desired to visit a man, about twenty-seven years of age, who had been afflicted with a white-swellings of his knee for more than twelvemonths. He suffered great pain within the articulation, before the joint appeared to enlarge, and his case was treated as a rheumatism ; however, instead of receiving benefit, he gradually grew worse, and was admitted into an hospital, where he was first salivated, with not the smallest advantage. A blister was also applied to the joint, and repeated every other day,

day, for the space of a fortnight. He stated, that this method procured him considerable ease, with some reduction of the swelling. When I saw him, he was in a confirmed state of hectic; had been troubled with rigours; the joint was much enlarged, and very painful, particularly in one part, where the skin was thin and inflamed. Indeed, both from the appearances and the examination, I was fully satisfied that matter had formed. I advised him, on account of his health, to part with the limb; but he declined the operation, telling me he quitted the hospital, as nothing farther was proposed.

I made a large eschar on each side of the joint, by rubbing the *kali purum* on the part, and the sores were kept discharging, by means of prepared sponge.

In

In this case, no ease was derived from the stimulus of the caustic ; but after the sores had discharged freely for some time, his pains were mitigated, and his health improved.

The previous painful state of the part, prevented, before, a minute examination, which would have ascertained that the ends of the bones were deprived of their cartilaginous covering, by the grating noise that was occasioned upon moving the joint. By the continuance of this drain, for nearly eighteen months, his knee got perfectly well ; its motion was unimpaired, nor was the grating sound any longer perceivable upon using the joint.

This man had also a similar affection of his ankle joint, attended with ulcerations and extensive caries, on which account, he submitted to amputation ;

putation; and though the knee had remained well a twelvemonth, and was so at the time of the operation, yet it was considered right to amputate above it; and I very much regret, I had not the opportunity of examining the diseased parts.

C A S E II.

S. G. a child, about the age of seven, had an indolent white-swelling, for upwards of two years; the whole joint was greatly swelled, and the inner condyle of the thigh-bone appeared enlarged.

She appeared to be very consumptive, breathed with difficulty; her skin was yellow, dry, hot, and scurfy; and she made little, and sometimes no water in the course of the day; her belly was also swollen, and the glands of the neck enlarged. In consequence
of

of the weak state the child was in, a fore was made by the caustic, only on the inside of the joint, that part being most diseased, and was kept open by the prepared sponge, and when it had discharged only a few weeks, her skin became cool and perspirable; her appetite was improved, and her breathing relieved; she became easy, and her sleep was uninterrupted by those spasms of the affected limb, with which she had been before troubled.

In every respect she was mending, until, unfortunately, she caught cold, by sitting at the window, to view the flames from the fire at Ratcliffe, which imprudence produced a fever, and a large deep-seated abscess formed on the outside of the knee. I ascertained that the fever was not symptomatic of the abscess, but that the abscess depended

pended on the fever, from the mother's
 account, who informed me, that the
 child had for two days been very fe-
 verish, before any alteration in the
 joint took place, or she had com-
 plained of any pain. It was pretty
 certain, that if the abscess had bursted,
 or been opened, the child would pro-
 bably have been drained to death; but
 the joint having been considerably re-
 duced in size by the first application of
 the caustic, I was tempted to apply it
 again, on that part of the skin which
 immediately covered the abscess, tak-
 ing the greatest care that it did not
 penetrate into the tumour. After the
 eschar had separated, and the sore had
 discharged freely, the child became
 easier, and the abscess gradually dis-
 persed. The issues were kept open,
 first by the sponge, and afterwards
 by the savine cerate, for upwards of

two years, at the end of which time she was in every respect healthy, and the joint appeared free from any disease, though there remained a slight enlargement of the inner condyle; however, probably she will be obliged to wear a lift to her shoe, in consequence of the contracted state of the knee.

C A S E III.

S. R. a scrofulous child, about seven years of age, was brought to me, on account of an indolent white-swelling affecting the knee, which had been diseased above two years; the whole joint was much tumefied, and a fluctuation was to be felt in its anterior and lateral parts. Although the child did not feel much pain when the part was handled, yet she expressed great uneasiness, when the
joint

joint was moved. The integuments covering the part appeared puffy and thickened, though not in the least œdematous, and the colour of the skin was remarkably pallid. A sore on each side of the joint was made by the caustic, and kept open, by the prepared sponge, for about six months. This child, when I first saw her, was certainly consumptive, but her health gradually amended, and is now perfectly good, and her joint free from any disease. I saw her lately (upwards of two years since her issues were healed) and she appeared completely well. I examined the knee, and it measured about half an inch more than the other, which is owing to an enlargement of the inner condyle of the thigh bone, and not to any affection of the soft parts covering the articulation.

C A S E IV.

I. G. aged nine years, of a scrofulous habit (as were also his parents) had laboured under a white-swelling of the knee for above two years. Before half of that time had elapsed, an abscess formed above the joint; for a short time, he seemed relieved, his knee being less painful, and the complaint at a stand.

He applied to me, in a state of hectic; his knee measured twice the size of the other, he felt great pain in the ends of the bones, and within the articulation, and there was a very considerable quantity of fluid to be felt over the whole joint. His parents not consenting to an amputation, the caustics were applied on each condyle, and the sores maintained open by the sponge. A copious discharge
being

being kept up for the space of a few weeks, effected a considerable amendment in his health, and some improvement took place also as to the joint, for he could bear it to be handled and moved with less pain, and the swelling was abated. He continued getting better, and recovered so well, as to be able to walk every day, for six months, to my house, which is a full mile from the place of his abode; during which time, his health was remarkably good, and the joint appeared free from disease, excepting a degree of enlargement in the bone, which, however, was no impediment to its action.

As he was one day returning to his father's house, he felt suddenly a great pain within the joint, which obliged him to be carried home, and in a few weeks he died hectic, in consequence of

of the inflammation and suppuration which ensued.

A particular examination of the joint was not allowed; but an incision into it, discovered the ends of the bones eroded and enlarged; and I found, by introducing my finger into an opening, caused by the disease, in the thigh bone, that its cellular structure was destroyed, the ligaments were greatly diseased, and the capsular ligament was also perforated in one part.

C A S E V.

I. T. a young woman, twenty years of age, was admitted into St. Clement's Workhouse, on account of an indolent white-swellings, she had been afflicted with, for above a year and a half. The joint was very puffy, and the skin palled, though not œdematous,

matous, and she felt great uneasiness within the articulation, which, when moved, the bones were perceived to grate. She had been in a Hospital, and the part was frequently cupped, with the advantage only of mitigating her pain.

Besides the complaint of her knee, she had a violent pain in her side, profuse cold sweats, with alternate heats, and an entire loss of appetite and sleep. She felt most of her pain within the joint, between the bones, and under the knee-pan, through to the ham. This patient, for about six months, submitted to the same kind of treatment as was used in the preceding case, to which she owes a complete recovery of her health and joint. I have seen her very lately, she walks well, and there was not the least grat-
ing

ing to be perceived, or indeed any apparent disease about the joint.

C A S E VI.

A little girl had a scrofulous elbow, which had ulcerated, and the bones were heard to grate, she besides laboured under strumous ophthalmy, and swelling of the glands of her neck. The caustics were applied on each side of the joint, taking care to make the eschars sufficiently remote from the sores, which the disease had made. After the issues had been kept open for upwards of six months, by the sponge, her health was completely restored, the ulcers healed, the complaint in her neck and eyes were removed, and the disease of the elbow was cured, though the case terminated in ossific ankylosis ; but as the arm was
kept

kept bent during the cure, she had a very useful limb.

C A S E VII.

S. M. D. a boy, about five years of age, had a white-swelling of his knee, of some date; and notwithstanding the fluid which surrounded the joint, the end of the thigh-bone was perceptibly enlarged; the usual applications had been made, but to no effect, as several abscesses formed about the joint, but no exfoliation had occurred; and when the boy was brought to me, his health had suffered much by repeated ulcerations. I applied the caustic on each side of the joint, so as not to interfere with the fores the complaint had caused; and this artificial discharge was maintained for a year and a half.

The result of this treatment was a

M permanent

permanent healing of the ulcers, which existed previous to the application of the caustic, with a reduction of the joint to its natural size, and a perfect recovery of its motion*.

C A S E VIII.

T. B. about six years old, had been afflicted with a white-swelling of his elbow, above eight months, and it then was ulcerated in seven places; he had also a strumous affection of his great toe on the left foot, a serofulous abscess and two sores on the right leg, besides a strumous ophthalmia which had subsisted from

* Of a case, the particulars of which have been mislaid, I can only state, that the caustics, after a drain had been kept up for above a year, succeeded in curing a diseased knee of some standing, in which there was great swelling of the soft parts, with enlargement of bone, which enlargement, however, remained, after all pain and tumefaction of the integuments had subsided.

the fourth year of his age. On account of the inflamed state of the elbow, six leeches were applied, and cloths wrung out of the *saturnine lotion*, were kept to the part, and renewed when dry. Though this treatment in a degree relieved the inflammation, yet the fores did not indicate the smallest disposition to heal. A large caustic was applied above the elbow-joint, the ulcers preventing its nearer application, the issue was kept open for about ten months, when the ulcers formed by the disease had completely healed, and the joint recovered.

This case affords a very striking instance of the constitutional effect of artificial drains ; as under this treatment, he entirely got the better of all the complaints which have been enumerated. On account of his dispo-

tion to scrofula, before the sore made by the caustic was healed, I cut him an issue in the arm.

I have almost daily opportunity of seeing this boy, as he lives in my neighbourhood, and he has not since had any complaint, though a period of nearly three years has elapsed,

C A S E IX.

M. H. a girl, about five years of age, was troubled with a white-swell-
ing of the right elbow, which was
attributed to her having fallen from
a swing. The mother discovered
the joint to be larger than the
other, and that she favoured it,
and complained on its being moved.
The skin covering the diseased part
was pallid, and the integuments were
thickened, though no impression of
the finger remained after handling.

This

This child laboured under weak eyes, had a swollen belly, the glands of her neck enlarged, and she was drowsy, and inactive. Two fores were made by the caustic, on each side of the joint, and were kept discharging for about six months, when her elbow got well, and her health recovered. At the mother's solicitation, I healed the fores, but in about two months, the swelling of the elbow returned, and there was a chain of lymphatic tumours extending from thence, towards the axilla, and she relapsed into her former ill state of health; and some time after, I saw the elbow, when the integuments were unaffected, though the articulation was considerably distended with fluid.

The advantages derived from the first application of the caustic, encouraged the parents to hope a second trial would prove equally successful; but

but though the child did perfectly recover of the disease of the elbow, after the second drain had been established, yet it required twice the time in this instance, to complete the recovery; and whether the diseased state of the lymphatics had any share in thus protracting the cure, I shall leave the reader to determine for himself. The swelling of her belly subsided, as did the glands in her neck, excepting one, which was scarcely to be felt.

A common issue was made in her arm at a time the discharge by the caustics was suppressed; her health has remained for nearly three years remarkably good, and her elbow, entirely free from disease, is equally strong and useful as the other.

C A S E

C A S E X.

R. N. a scrofulous boy, eight years old, had a diseased knee, for about four years, which was much contracted, he having been suffered to keep it in a bent state. The part was considerably enlarged and painful, and from the boy's general health, and the appearance of the skin, I had no doubt, but it was matter which fluctuated under my fingers. The caustics were applied on each side of the joint, avoiding a part which was thin and inflamed, and the sores were kept open for about ten months; the boy's health gradually became good, the fluid collected in and about the joint was entirely absorbed, and the pain removed, though there remained some enlargement of the inner condyle. I wished to have removed the limb, because the contrac-

tion of the knee rendered it of no use, and it was only in his way ; but the mother objecting, I directed the issues to be kept open ; this advice was not followed, and though the knee preserves its improved state, yet a scrofulous abscess has formed in the middle of his leg.

C A S E XI.

A young lady felt a pain in her knee, three years before I saw her, which was exasperated by walking, long standing, or any kind of fatigue; the joint was contracted, much enlarged, and the integuments were in a thickened, puffy state, and of a pallid appearance, though not œdematous. She described her pain as particularly severe in the inner condyle, and under the ligaments of the knee-pan, shooting from thence into the joint. The
part

part was at different times, cupped or leeches, and a large blister applied. As the case occurred before my knowledge of the effects of savine, I employed the *ung. cantharidis* to keep up the discharge, which produced great pain and strangury. I therefore applied the caustic on each side of the joint, and kept the sores open by the plastered sponge. I wish particularly to remark, that she always expressed herself relieved in proportion to the quantity of discharge. This patient continued under my care for two years, and nearly the whole of that time, a drain was maintained, either by the prepared sponge, or by the savine cerate, a blister being previously applied. Her knee is perfectly recovered, she can straighten or bend the joint without pain, and her health, which had suffered very considerably, is now completely re-

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established

established. I cannot sufficiently commend the patience with which the lady who is the subject of the present case, has born her sufferings. Indeed, the circumstances were particularly unfavourable ; for a very near relation had fallen a victim to the same disorder, and but for a visible improvement in her general health, I should frequently have proposed amputation of the limb, as preferable to the misery she endured. To secure her from a relapse, and as she had been troubled with swellings of the glands of her neck, I cut an issue above the knee.

C A S E XII.

R. D. of a scrofulous habit, had a diseased knee, for above three months. He described his pain, as first originating in the inner condyle of the *os femoris*,

moris, under the patella, and within the articulation, before the part manifested any swelling.—The customary application had been previously used, with no advantage; but as he had lately contracted some venereal complaint, it was thought advisable, to try how far mercury would relieve the diseased joint; he was directed to rub mercurial ointment on the affected limb every night, for about six weeks, which salivated him, though it did not in the smallest degree alleviate the pains of the joint, which were not more exasperated in the evening, than at any other period of the day. He was afterwards admitted into St. Clement's workhouse, when his health was much impaired, from the uneasiness of the joint, loss of sleep and appetite. An eschar was made, by the application of the caustic,

tic, on each side of the joint, which was puffy, much enlarged, and somewhat contracted; and the sores were kept open by the prepared sponge, for about four months, after which period the joint became perfectly free from disease, though some further time was necessary for it to acquire its usual strength. About two years after, in consequence of his application to me on account of another disease, I had an opportunity of examining the joint; he told me it was equally strong and useful as the other, and I could not discover any vestige of disease.

C A S E XIII.

I was desired to visit E. C. who had been two years afflicted with a diseased knee; and had suffered great pain in the condyles of the thigh-bone,

bone, under the knee-pan, and within the articulation, for some time before there was any appearance of swelling. The joint was in a contracted state, and of twice its natural size; the integuments appeared puffy, and were thickened, but not œdematous, and the colour of the skin was remarkably pallid. As the joint was rapidly becoming more and more painful, and had already materially affected her health, a removal of the limb was twice proposed, in consultation, as the only means of relief. The caustics in this case, were applied on each side of the joint, not with any expectation of cure, but rather as a palliative sort of remedy, and preventing the repetition of abscesses, which always attend the latter stage of white-swellings.

The sores were kept open by the
sponge,

sponge, for about a year, in which time the joint progressively recovered. This patient was not relieved by the irritation the caustics first produced, nor indeed until after the fores had discharged freely for some weeks ; and the improvement that took place in her health, was the first circumstance which afforded the smallest ray of hope.

C A S E. XIV.

I was desired to visit a gentleman, who after acute rheumatism, had a diseased knee, which measured more than the other three inches and a half ; a fluid was to be felt fluctuating on each side of the joint, and under the knee-pan, which was elevated considerably above the thigh-bone, and which by motion was distinctly heard to grate. — This patient

felt much uneasiness within the articulation of the knee, for some time before the joint enlarged, and his health was very much impaired.

The caustic was applied on each side of the joint, and the sores were kept open by the sponge; an artificial drain was kept up, either in this way, or by previously blistering, and afterwards dressing with the savine cerate, for the space nearly of twelve months, with manifest advantage; for his health was restored, he was enabled to walk without pain, though the joint felt weak, and appeared somewhat swollen; and on motion no grating could be perceived, yet the patella was increased in its circumference. I cannot give any further account of this case as the avocations of the gentleman carried him out of town.

C A S E

C A S E XV.

A. M. about the age of twenty-two, called on me, on account of a diseased knee, he had had for nearly two years; and when it first appeared, the pain was removed by blistering, but it soon after returned. The joint was much enlarged; but so tense and hard was the part, that it appeared to a medical friend and myself, that the condyles were enlarged; and from the deep pain he felt in the cavity of the joint, when it was used, we concluded also, that the ligaments had suffered. This person's joint was treated, for four months, in the same way as has been mentioned in the preceding case, and with the like success, and the joint is of its natural size. Though several months have elapsed since the cure was performed, he has

continued

continued well, and enjoys a remarkably good state of health.

C A S E XVI.

C. B. a young woman of a strumous habit, had felt for some months, great pain on each side of her knee, and under the knee-pan, which was followed by swelling; and when this effect took place she became easier. This patient also had night-sweats, fever, and loss of appetite; the joint was enlarged, puffy, and of a pallid hue. A blister was applied, which completely covered its anterior and lateral parts and when the cuticle was removed, the sore was daily dressed with the ceratum sabinæ, for about three weeks; when the sores were suffered to heal, excepting in those places, where the pain first originated. She also had some scrofulous sores on the other leg, which

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kept mending as long as a discharge was procured from the diseased knee, but when the sore was healed, in consequence of the joint having recovered, the ulcer became worse, which circumstance induced me to cut her an issue above the knee, which I understand is kept open, and she has had no relapse.

C A S E XVII.

A child, about two years old, with enlarged glands of the neck, had suffered from a white-swelling of the knee, for about three months; the joint was twice its natural size, and the child cried much, when it was moved. The mother previously to her discovering the part to be swollen, noticed that the infant could not bear this joint to be exercised with the same freedom as the other. The integuments

ments were pale and thickened, but not œdematous. A blister was applied sufficiently large to cover the anterior and lateral parts of the knee, and when the cuticle was removed, the joint was covered with a dressing of the savine cerate, which kept the part discharging very copiously for about three months, in which time, the joint completely recovered, and was in every respect as useful as the other; the swelling of the glands of the neck also subsided, under the same treatment.

C A S E XVIII.

I. C. between twenty and thirty, of a scrofulous habit, was attacked very suddenly, with a violent pain within the joint of his knee, which he described as shooting from each side, and under the knee-pan, into
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the interior part of the articulation. He applied to me a few days after this attack, when the whole of the joint was much swollen, and the pain on motion, very excruciating; twelve leeches were applied, which bled freely, and the part was frequently fomented; but no relief was obtained from this treatment. A large blister was applied, and a very great discharge was maintained by the use of the savine cerate, for above a month; when he lost all pain, and the joint was reduced to its natural size, although considerably weakened. It ought to be mentioned, that this patient was not relieved by the first effect of the blister, and indeed, not till after a discharge had been kept up for several days. I have frequently seen this person since, and the joint remains perfectly

perfectly well, and as useful and as strong as the other.

C A S E XIX.

W. C. had been afflicted twelve months with a diseased elbow; he felt great pain within the articulation, and in the condyles of the os humeri, for some time previously to the joint appearing enlarged. About seven months after the elbow had been diseased, his knee became affected, and this complaint was preceded by excruciating pain, first in his hip, and which (to use his own expression) fell into his knee, and there continuing for some time, the joint began to swell. When I saw this patient, he complained of violent pain in his side, had hæmoptysis, cough, and night-sweats; his elbow had ulcerated in three places, and discharged freely,
and

and though there was a quantity of fluid accumulated about the joint, the condyles appeared enlarged, and when the elbow was moved, the bones grated. The knee was contracted, much swollen, and so distended, that till after the reduction of the swelling, I was unable to ascertain that the end of the thigh-bone was enlarged, though he experienced much uneasiness in the condyles, and within the cavity of the joint. In consequence of the weak state of the patient, I was contented to try what would be the result of a purulent drain derived only from the knee. After the part had discharged freely for about a fortnight, he did not expectorate any more blood; his complaints in his chest were greatly relieved, and in a few weeks were entirely removed. The improved state of this patient's health

health was an encouragement to treat the elbow in the same way, and an artificial drain was procured, first by blistering, and afterwards dressing with the savine cerate, for nearly a year. The elbow remains contracted, and when it is moved, no grating is perceptible; the ulcers have gradually healed, and, excepting an enlargement of bone, there is no appearance of disease.

The knee became free from pain, and perfectly recovered its motion, though the joint was an inch in circumference larger than the other, a circumstance clearly attributable to an increased size of the condyles.

This patient is of a scrofulous habit, and the disease of the knee has once returned; the same treatment was again resorted to, and excepting the joint being very considerably weakened,

ened, it remains in the state just described; but with a view to prevent any further relapse, a common issue has been made above the knee.

C A S E XX.

A boy, aged seven years, had a diseased knee and ankle-joint of the same limb, which had so impaired his health, that amputation was thought advisable, but to which the parents would not consent. The knee-joint having been first affected, and advancing fast to a state of suppuration, it was blistered, and the part was every day dressed with the savine cerate, for above six months; this treatment produced a reduction of the swelling of the soft parts, a removal of the pain occasioned by the disease, and a complete absorption of the fluid, with which the

the different parts of the joint were distended.

The knee is capable of every function, though the condyles of the thigh-bone remain considerably enlarged.

From the improvement of the boy's health, and the amendment of his knee, I recommended the ankle-joint to be treated in the same way; but with what advantage, I have not yet heard, as he resides in the country.

C A S E XXI.

E. P. eleven years old, of a scrofulous family, had an indolent white-swelling, for about four years; the joint was much swollen, the integuments were thickened, but not œdematous, and the skin was remarkably pallid. This boy was suffering much from the painful state of the part, the disease was making rapid progress, and

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he could not, as before, bear it to be handled without great complaint, and in moving the joint, he expressed a sensation of much uneasiness within the articulation. A blister was applied over the whole knee, and was kept discharging with the savine cerate for about two months, by which treatment he perfectly recovered, though the joint for some time remained weak: it is almost two years since, and no symptom of disease has appeared.

C A S E XXII.

A. D. of a scrofulous habit, some days after a fall, which at the time did not occasion any inconvenience, complained of a dreadful pain in the inside of his knee, which was followed by a puffy swelling, under and on each side of the knee; he could bear the part to be handled with freedom,

dom, provided the limb was at rest, without manifesting any increase of uneasiness; but when the joint was moved, his sufferings were severe. Six leeches were first applied without affording any relief, a blister was therefore had recourse to, and the sore was dressed with the savine cèrate, for about three weeks, in which time, a very copious discharge was kept up, the pain gradually subsided, and the joint has remained in a perfect and healthy state.

C A S E XXIII.

I. S. aged sixteen, had for several months prior to his application to me, suffered great pain within the joint of his knee, before the part began to swell; he could then bear it to be handled without increase of pain, but his using the joint in any way, occasioned great

P 2 uneasiness,

uneasiness, and his sufferings were somewhat diminished after the tumefaction appeared. When I saw him, the joint was much distended, and he felt a deep-seated pain within the articulation, which affected his health.

A blister was first applied to the knee; when the cuticle was removed, the part was dressed with the savine cerate for six months, when he had lost all pain, and the joint in every respect appeared sound, though it was weak for some time.

He remained well for six months, when he relapsed, and the same sort of treatment, with success, was resorted to; but in this instance, twice the time was requisite for his recovery: and to prevent another relapse, as he was of a scrofulous constitution, an issue was made above the knee, and he has remained well almost twelve months.

C A S E

C A S E XXIV.

H.W. aged thirty, was seized, about four years ago, with pain in the condyles of the thigh-bone, and within the articulation; her case was treated and looked upon as rheumatism, as the joint became easier when used, but more stiff and painful, after the limb had been at rest for some time. She began to suffer in her health, which was afterwards much improved by being at the sea-side; she went frequently into a warm sea-bath, with the advantage only of relaxing the joint, but it did not reduce the swelling, or remove the pain. Different liniments and plaisters were applied, and she underwent a long course of mercury, without the smallest relief.

It is now more than twelve months, since I first saw her, and by submit-
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ting to the treatment mentioned in the preceding case, she has a very useful limb; can extend, but is unable to bend it so perfectly as she can the other knee. Her health is very good; she is free from those pains, by which she had been before oppressed, and the swelling of the soft parts is completely removed. Her complaint being of long standing, and her pains having begun in the condyles, which remain enlarged, I have thought it advisable to keep up a discharge for some time longer on each side of the joint, and ultimately mean to make an issue above the knee.

C A S E XXV.

A maid-servant in my neighbourhood, about seventeen years of age, had for many months been afflicted with a pain within the articulation of
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the knee, before the joint appeared at all enlarged. In the incipient stage of the complaint, she could bear the part to be handled without any additional uneasiness, but moving the joint in any way, greatly increased her sufferings. After the first appearance of enlargement, she became somewhat easier, but when the swelling had very considerably increased, and the joint become much distended by fluid collected in the different parts of it, handling then became very uneasy to her, and the pain within the articulation was particularly severe, indeed so much so, that opium was given every night, to procure sleep.

The anterior and lateral parts of the knee were blistered, and the cuticle being removed, the sores were dressed every day with the ceratum sabinae: after a discharge had continued for
some

some days, she became easier, ^{the} opium was therefore omitted, and in about a month the pain and swelling entirely subsided; the joint in every respect recovered, and remains well.

C A S E XXVI.

A young lady, aged twelve years, the sister of the child whose case is given in page 66, was brought to me, from the country, to be put under my care, in consequence of the favourable event of her sister's case. She had a diseased ankle-joint, of the indolent sort, whose appearance I have so often described; it had suppurated on the inner side, but the ulcer did not reduce the general swelling, and only seemed to affect that part over which it was immediately situated. A blister was applied round the whole joint, but the ulcerated part was defended by a dressing

dressing of white cerate, a discharge
 was kept up for six months, in the man-
 ner I have recommended, and the suc-
 cess of the practice was most decided.
 From her constitutional tendency to
 scrofula, I made an issue above her
 knee, and directed that it should be
 constantly kept open. I consider this
 treatment as having prevented the re-
 currence of any modification of the
 disease since that time.

C A S E XXVII.

W. B. thirty-four years of age, of a
 scrofulous habit, had an affection of
 the left ankle-joint, after external in-
 jury, which at last increased so as to
 render him incapable of following his
 ordinary occupation of a farrier. He
 was for some time admitted a patient
 in a hospital, without receiving any be-
 nefit,

nefit, though all the ordinary methods of treatment were employed. It is now more than three years since he first applied to me; the joint was much swollen, and was remarkably tense, though a fluctuation was perceptible in some parts; he complained of a violent deep-seated pain within the joint, and it was completely useless. I first directed leeches, and then applied a blister over the joint, intending to maintain a permanent discharge by the common blister-ointment; but the strangury which supervened, made it necessary for me to desist from its use. I therefore made a large eschar on each side of the joint, from which a drain was established for more than a year and a half: it became free from pain and swelling, and though it is less flexible and strong than the other, he is nevertheless

nevertheless enabled to follow his business, which the disease had previously obliged him to quit.

C A S E XXVIII.

E. S. about six years of age, of a strumous habit, and labouring under phthisis pulmonalis, was brought to me, for an indolent white-swelling of the elbow; the joint was twice its natural size, and a fluctuation of fluid was evidently to be felt,

The whole joint was surrounded by a blister, and when the cuticle was removed, the part was dressed with the savine cerate. The advantages first derived from this treatment, were effectual in recovering the patient's health, as his breathing became easier, and his night-sweats, cough, and pain in the side were entirely removed.

The diseased joint gradually reco-

vered in about twelve months, and was completely cured ; an issue was at that time made in the arm, and the child in every respect has since continued well, a period of about a year.

C A S E XXIX.

A case of a diseased elbow occurred in a scrofulous girl, about the age of fifteen, nearly similar in appearance to the case just recited, excepting that the arm was in an extended state, and the joint so rigid, as to be incapable of the least flexion, though it admitted a degree of motion sufficient to prove that its rigidity was not owing to ossific union. By a drain of several weeks' continuance, the disease of the joint got well, and the limb was perfectly restored to its functions.

C A S E

C A S E XXX.

I shall mention a case, though it is not yet terminated, but the alteration produced, has been as marked as I could wish: it was an elbow-disease. The condyles were much enlarged, the integuments were become thin in one part, and a general fluctuation could be perceived; there was an ulceration with considerable fungus, and a discharge of a viscid glairy matter in small quantity, upon that part where the integuments were thinnest. Dry lint was applied immediately to the fungus, and then the joint was surrounded by a blister. A discharge has been persevered in for six months, the general health, which had always been bad, seems from the mother's account, to be better than ever. That part of the swelling which depended on fluid, has disappeared;

disappeared, the fungus has subsided, and the original sore healed ; so that at present, the discharge is kept up from the surface even of the whole joint, and the only disease which seems to remain, consists in the enlargement of the bones.

C A S E XXXI.

Two cases of diseased shoulder-joints, in persons of a scrofulous tendency, having fallen under my care, I shall relate but one, the circumstances of each nearly resembling the other.

A young woman had long been troubled with an excruciating pain within the cavity of the shoulder-joint, and when it had continued for some time, the part began to swell ; soon after this the arm was lengthened and emaciated, and she could not lift it from
her

her side. When I saw her, the head of the os humeri was sunk into the axilla, and a cavity of course was formed under the deltoid muscle; as soon as the head of the bone was elevated into the acetabulum scapulæ, the cavity that was before observable under the deltoid muscle, was removed, and a perceptible fulness, with fluctuation, occupied its place.

After pursuing the practice above recommended for several months, she lost all pain, the fluid was absorbed, and the head of the bone continues in its natural situation; she has a very useful limb, though the arm still remains of a reduced size.*

From

* This case, with others of the hip and shoulder, which have fallen under my notice, seems to me to be decidedly illustrative of the proper acceptation of the following aphorism of Hippocrates, to which I shall subjoin the commentaries of Fabricius ab Aquapendente, and Galen.

Ὀρθοῦσιν ὑπὸ ἰσχυάδος ἐνεχλυσμένοις χροῖας ἰζήσεται τὴν ἰσχυάδα, καὶ πάλιν ἐκείνηται, τούτοις μύξαι ἐπιγίγνεται.

Quibuscuq;

From the observations which have been made, and the cases adduced, I think myself justifiable, in drawing the following conclusions:

That long-continued discharges, artificially excited, are highly beneficial in every stage of white-swelling, and in other modifications of scrofula.

That caries has been arrested, and sometimes cured; that collections of fluid within the cavities of joints, or exterior to them, have been removed; that sores connected with the local aff-

Quibuscumque a coxendicum morbo vexatis, coxa excidit, et rursus incidit, his mucii accedunt.

HIPPOCR. *Aphor.* 59, § 6.

In quo aphorismo Hippocrates causam assignat læsi articuli femoris, quod excidat et recidat, quam in pituitam rejicit mucosam; et est ut puto ille mucus, qui naturaliter solet contineri in articularum cavitate copia tamen plus æquo ad-auctus. HIERON. FABRICII *Opera Chirurgica*, c. 106, p. 643.

Sæpe in articulis humor pituitosus acervatur, quem myxam appellat (Hippocrates) a quo madefacta articulationis ligamenta, laxiora redduntur: atque ideo facile a cavitate articulus excidit, et rursus non cum difficultate incidit.

GALEN in *Aphor. Hippocr.* Com. 6.

fection have been permanently healed, and a repetition of them prevented; that the general health of every patient has been strikingly improved, and that where this treatment has been adopted in consequence of the diseased joint, other scrofulous appearances in distant parts have also yielded to it.

That the best method of producing such discharge, is the application of a common blister in the first instance, and when the cuticle is removed, in dressing the part with the savine cerate; and that the use of this preparation may be beneficially extended to a great variety of cases, where a copious local discharge may be thought advisable.

That an issue in any part of the body, may be successfully employed as a constitutional remedy, in all cases

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of scrofula, and may probably be sufficiently powerful when it is applied in time, to prevent an attack of this disease, in constitutions predisposed to it.

and finally, that

That we are not to be depressed by the obstinate resistance of the complaint, or lose the necessary confidence in our mode of treatment, although months should pass without much apparent advantage; for it has principally been owing to a steady perseverance, that I have succeeded in restoring some unfortunate and almost desperate cases to the full enjoyment of their health.

12 ME 58

F I N I S.

That an issue in any part of the

should not be made, as it is not
as a constitutional remedy, in all cases

